

Climate Protection Committee

Minutes

July 20, 2010

Attendees:

Daniel Button

Judy McGuire

Suzanne Parmet

Stuart Sessions

Sally Kelly

Warren Rizzi

The meeting began with an announcement that, if the committee members had not already sent an email to rejoin the committee, they should do so. The meeting continued with update on this summer's Climate Corps program from Warren Rizzi. This summer, one college student is working with Larkspur Energy, a company that conducts basic energy assessments over the phone. The student has gotten a handful of local businesses to donate small gifts to use as incentives for residents to get the home energy assessment. She is getting good experience and learning a lot about energy saving. About 12 people have signed up for the service, 6 of them Town residents

Actions: Judy requested Warren send the list of households that the Climate Corps students visited last summer. . Committee members were urged to contact friends who haven't had audits to sign up for the phone energy assessment.

Warren presented the final numbers of the Energy Audit and Improvements Incentive program. It was a popular program in which all 50 spots were filled though not every person ended up requesting reimbursement. The Council did vote to extend the program another year. The majority of the people who requested funds did receive the full \$600. The deadline for submitting requests for payment has been extended and current participants notified. A notice will be included in the September Forecast urging more residents to sign up. Warren is to include some information on what previous recipients have done.

Sally Kelly presented an idea of organizing a Town Green Home and Garden Tour with a subcommittee from both the Environment Committee and the Climate Protection Committee. They hope to contact homes in Town that either have native gardens or homes that have implemented energy saving improvements (solar power and hot water, geothermal, use of sustainable materials.) May seems to be the best time to have the event as the gardens will be in bloom and when the weather is warmer. The

subcommittee would need to identify homes that would qualify for the tour to begin planning out the event. The CPC agreed to cosponsor the event and provide member(s) of a subcommittee.

Suzanne detailed the current PEPCO home energy assessment program. PEPCO has a program that allows PEPCO customers to have a professional energy assessment through a participating contractor. The assessment lasts for approximately 1.5 hours and costs only \$100. Eligible customers must have central air and/or electric heat to qualify. PEPCO is also willing to pay for certain home energy improvements of up to \$1200. The committee would like to see if we can gather information through this program of who had the assessments and who is making improvements to their homes. Action: Suzanne will write an article for the September forecast regarding this PEPCO service. PEPCO also has an energy check-up program similar to the Larkspur Energy Program. Suggestions are made by a visiting inspector for energy conservation. In addition the PEPCO agent provides a free CFL, a low flow shower head, and insulation for hot water pipes. If the client accepts the free gifts the check-up is free; if not it costs \$40.

Judy distributed the draft of the Town survey. She would like to have a section in the survey to find out how and where Town residents get their information. This would allow for better and more effective communication with residents. Sally said the Environment Committee discussed the idea of asking the Council for a section of the survey dedicated to feedback about major events of the Environment and Climate Protection Committees.

Action: Committee members to give Judy comments on the survey by Friday. Judy will discuss comments with Todd.

Daniel presented his report on household participation in CPC activities and events. He used the sign in sheets and figures from past events to create a database of how many people and households participated in each. The report details the number of homes on each street participated in which event. The data also shows the frequency in which households participated in events. This database will allow the committee to see which events were the most popular. Action: Judy asked Daniel to create a column that shows the households that participated in the Light Bulb Distribution who were occasional, frequent, or very frequent participants. He is also to confirm that he has included households receiving energy audit rebates and those visited by the Climate Corps. Warren to send Daniel climate corps participants from summer 2009. Judy to provide information about date and content of each event.

Judy updated the committee on the ICLEI national meeting being held in Washington D.C. in September. Judy and Warren are planning to attend and will be helping to host a small Town networking and brainstorming session. Towns under 20,000 people will be invited to attend. Judy asked any committee members who wish to attend to send her an email.

A Town resident suggested that the CPC show the documentary "Fresh" as a community discussion event. The movie explores the benefits of locally grown food and local farming. Judy suggested that this could be a winter event when residents are looking for indoor activities. Stuart suggested coupling this with giving out information on the carbon benefits of eating locally grown food. The event should stay

focused on the global warming impacts of food processing, growing and shipping. Other suggestions were to combine it with a local foods bakeoff and provide information on local Community Supported Agriculture purveyors.

Judy ended the meeting saying she will send out information on the current legislation concerning energy upgrade loans collected through property taxes which threatens the County's Home Energy Loan Program.

The committee will discuss their work plan for the year at the September meeting. Stuart Sessions hopes to have proposal to the committee in October to assess the Town's progress on the Climate Action Plan. The September meeting (Sept. 28) will focus on a workplan for the coming year.